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November 30, 2020

Town of Wareham Planning Board

Memorial Town Hall

54 Marion Road

Wareham, MA 02571

Re: proposed zoning change for the R-130 Zoning District

Attention: George Barrett, Chairman

Dear Chairman Barrett:

I am writing as a private citizen with comments on the proposed changes to the current R-130 zoning district, namely the HOSPITALITY, RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT.

I have read through the proposal and strongly recommend a specific requirement that cannot be waived under any circumstances that requires a complete hydraulic analysis of the ground water supply, direction of flow, depth to ground water and any and all protective measures required by a project of any nature to assure that the ground water is protected against contamination.

The original designation for this particular zoning district was Agricultural Watershed for a very specific reason and that was to protect the town’s water supply.

If this water supply were to be contaminated the Town of Wareham will be without a major water supply, Maple Spring well field, not-withstanding. Onset gets most of its water from wells south of Route 25 and west of Red Brook but they are on the hydraulic down-hill side of the watershed and the area under consideration for re-zoning.

At a minimum, I believe the following should be included within any changes that the Town of Wareham may vote to approve for the proposed new zoning.

1. Any proposal for development should include reports of the nature suggested above and should be submitted to the Planning Board, Onset Water Department and Wareham Water Department for review and should be also assessed by an outside ground water supply specialist for that purpose.
2. The analysis should also include the installation and continual inspection of ground water monitoring wells with reports submitted as may be required to both the Wareham Water Department and the Onset Water Department as well as to the Wareham Board of Health. The purpose of the monitoring wells would be to provide a bench mark in time and for current water quality prior to the commencement of any development.

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1. Any responsibility for the cleanup and/or protection of the water supply should be squarely placed on the backs of any and all major developers in this area.
2. Any ground water discharge permit issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the disposal of waste water should be reviewed by the Wareham Board of Health.
3. The local requirement for effluent discharge is limited to a maximum of 3 parts per million total nitrogen and shall also contain appropriate treatment for phosphorus removal.

It is imperative that the Town of Wareham take all steps to support and protect its water supply for now and for the future. No amount of development of the scope proposed will be worth the loss of the Town’s source of life-giving water.

Very truly yours,

Charles L. Rowley

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